

# Easter | week of April 9 | LEADER GUIDE

## SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

This Easter, the message is geared toward those with doubts. During the message, we will highlight that the resurrection is **not** a Bible story. Christians don't believe in the resurrection because it's in the Bible. The Bible exists because the resurrection actually happened. Jesus' life and teachings are important, but without the resurrection they make no sense.

We will challenge everyone to ask: **is it real?** And if Jesus really did raise from the dead, what does it mean for us today?

## SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

During Easter services, we will read John's account of the resurrection (John 20|1-18)

For small group discussion, we will read and compare Matthew's and Luke's accounts. Note that the last two questions are about doubt. The first one is about the doubts the people in your group have or have had. These could be really important discussions for understanding where each other has come from and where everyone is in their faith. We talk a lot about what we believe and our next steps in group, but we don't have as many opportunities to share where our faith might be a bit lacking.

Sharing doubts can be difficult in a group setting. Be intentional about creating a safe space for people to share:

- Affirm people when they open up.
- Pause. Give people enough time to think about their doubts... and give people enough time to build up the courage to share. Look for people who are thinking, and ask if they'd like to share.
- Help people who share to feel seen and heard.
- Respect the process: don't feel like you need to give an answer for everyone's doubt. Chances are that the doubt is deeper seeded than one group discussion can solve. Trust that God is working in their lives and sharing with the group is part of their process in trusting him.
- If your group is large, consider splitting into smaller groups in different rooms. We recommend splitting genders.

## *go deeper*

*Compare John 20|1-18 with: Matthew 28|1-15; Mark 16|1-11; and Luke 24|1-12*

Why might these accounts share different details?

Look up the primary audience for each of these author's Gospel. How might the audience explain the details that are highlighted (or not) in each telling?

## NEXT STEPS

3D1 Evangelism was founded by Garry Poole as a way to reach people far from God through a building relationships. It has been a particularly effective approach for people with doubts, questions, hurts, and hang-ups related to church. The goal is that by **d**eveloping relationships, **d**iscovering stories, and **d**iscerning next-steps, every Christ-follower can help someone far from God come to a better understanding of who he is.

## EXTRA INFO

**STEP ONE** | If anyone in your group hasn't attended Step One, you can find the time and RSVP [here](#).

**LEAD OUT** | Any leaders or apprentices or potential apprentices or anyone who might be a leader in any capacity at 2|42 should sign up for [one of these Lead Out options](#).

**CAMPS** | Registration for [Summer Jam](#) (current 1-4 graders), [Mix](#) (current 5-7 graders), and [Move](#) (current 8-12 graders) are open now. \*\*Note there have been recent changes to the location for Move. If your high schooler is signed up, you should have received an email about these changes\*\*

Check the "What's happening" button on the app, and the events page for your campus to find specific event details.

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### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What is your favorite Easter tradition?

**this week's big idea:** *The resurrection changed everything!*

*What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?*

### SCRIPTURE + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### **Matthew 28|1-10**

1. *What does Matthew highlight in this telling of the resurrection?*
2. *What doubts or questions might someone have about this account?*

#### **Luke 24|1-12**

1. *What does Luke highlight in this telling of the resurrection?*
2. *What similarities and differences do you notice between Luke and Matthew?*
3. *What doubts or questions might someone have about this account?*
4. *How do you handle the doubts you have about your faith?*
5. *How can we respond to the doubts others have when we don't know the answers to their questions or the solution to their struggles?*

### NEXT STEPS

#### **invite**

Who is someone you know that has doubts about God, Christianity, or the Bible? How could you be intentional with engaging them in a conversation about their doubts? Based on your relationship with them, which of these might be a next step:

- **Develop relationships** (*be intentional about getting to know them as people*)
- **Discover stories** (*be intentional about learning more about why they have doubts*)
- **Discern next steps** (*be intentional about inviting them to a weekend service, group, somehow engage in faith in a new way; you may be a seed planter, a seed waterer or you get to see the harvest*)

### PRAYER

Share group prayer requests and pray for one another and the next steps identified.

Pray also for the people who attend our weekend services who have doubts that have kept them from putting their faith in Jesus. Pray for them to have safe spaces to belong before they believe.